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FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING FORCE IN CYPRUS

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Ihor V. HUMENNY (Ukraine)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 20 September 1996, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-first session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 56th, 57th and 70th meetings, on 12 and 13 May and 6 June 1997. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/50/SR.56, 57 and 70).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the reports of the Secretary-General (A/51/755 and Corr.1 and Add.1) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/51/851 and Corr.1).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.5/51/L.77

4. At the 70th meeting, on 6 June, the representative of Belgium introduced a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus" (A/C.5/51/L.77), submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/51/L.77 without a vote (see para. 6).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Recalling Security Council resolution 186 (1964) of 4 March 1964, by which the Council established the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus, and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Force, the latest of which was resolution 1092 (1996) of 23 December 1996,

Recalling also its resolution 50/236 of 7 June 1996 on the financing of the Force,

Reaffirming that the costs of the Force that are not covered by voluntary contributions are expenses of the Organization to be borne by Member States in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Force by certain Governments,

Noting the agreement of the Government of Greece that, for the period under consideration, a proportion of its annual voluntary contribution will serve to cover, in part, the United Nations obligations regarding termination benefits payable to locally employed civilian staff,

Recalling its previous decisions regarding the fact that, in order to meet the expenditures caused by the Force, a different procedure is required from that applied to meet expenditures of the regular budget of the United Nations,

Taking into account the fact that the economically more developed countries are in a position to make relatively larger contributions and that the economically less developed countries have a relatively limited capacity to contribute towards such an operation,

Bearing in mind the special responsibilities of the States permanent members of the Security Council, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, in the financing of such operations,

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[1] A/51/755 and Corr.1 and Add.1.

[2] A/51/851 and Corr.1.

Expressing its appreciation to all those Member States and observer States which have made voluntary contributions to the Special Account established for the financing of the Force for the period prior to 16 June 1993,

Noting that voluntary contributions were insufficient to cover all of the costs of the Force, including those incurred by troop-contributing Governments prior to 16 June 1993, and regretting the absence of an adequate response to appeals for voluntary contributions, including that contained in the letter dated 17 May 1994 from the Secretary-General to all Member States,[3]

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Force with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. Takes note of the status of contributions to the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus as at 13 May 1997, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 13,326,013 United States dollars, representing 15 per cent of the total assessed contributions from 16 June 1993 to the period ending 30 June 1997, notes that some 23 per cent of the Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States concerned, in particular those in arrears, to ensure the payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

2. Expresses concern about the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursement of troop contributors, which bear burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

3. Expresses its appreciation to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full;

4. Urges all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Force in full and on time;

5. Endorses the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Force is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

7. Decides to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus an amount of 48,000,800 dollars gross (45,877,800 dollars net) for the maintenance of the Force for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998, inclusive of an amount of 1,939,100 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations and an amount of 1,131,000 dollars for the cost of termination benefits for locally employed civilians relating to the period of employment after 15 June 1993;

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[3] S/1994/647.

8. Decides also, as an ad hoc arrangement, taking into consideration the funding through voluntary contributions of one third of the cost of the Force, equivalent to 15,292,600 dollars, by the Government of Cyprus and of 3,731,333 dollars by the Government of Greece, to apportion the amount of 28,976,867 dollars gross (26,853,867 dollars net), including an amount of 2,768,667 dollars, as provided for in paragraph 12 below, for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998, to be assessed on Member States at a monthly rate of 2,414,738 dollars gross (2,237,822 dollars net), in accordance with the composition of groups set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of General Assembly resolution 43/232 of 1 March 1989, as adjusted by the Assembly in its resolutions 44/192 B of 21 December 1989, 45/269 of 27 August 1991, 46/198 A of 20 December 1991, 47/218 A of 23 December 1992, 49/249 A of 20 July 1995, 49/249 B of 14 September 1995, 50/224 of 11 April 1996 and 51/218 A and B of 18 December 1996 and its decisions 48/472 A of 23 December 1993 and 50/451 B of 23 December 1995, and taking into account the scale of assessments for the years 1997, as set out in its resolution 49/19 B of 23 December 1994 and its decision 50/471 A of 23 December 1995, and 1998,[4] subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Force beyond 30 June 1997;

9. Decides further that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 8 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of 2,123,000 dollars approved for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998;

10. Decides to continue to maintain as separate the account established for the period prior to 16 June 1993 for the Force, invites Member States to make voluntary contributions to that account, and requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts in appealing for voluntary contributions to the account;

11. Calls upon Member States to make voluntary contributions to the Special Account for the Force to enable the United Nations to meet its remaining obligations with respect to the locally employed civilian staff;

12. Notes the agreement of the Government of Greece to earmark, on an ad hoc basis, for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998, an amount of 2,768,667 dollars from its annual voluntary contribution of 6.5 million dollars to the Force, for this purpose;

13. Invites voluntary contributions to the Force in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

14. Requests the Secretary-General to direct the Office of Internal Oversight Services to evaluate and to report to the General Assembly on the events and circumstances that led to United Nations responsibility for

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[4] To be adopted by the General Assembly.

termination pay to the locally employed civilians in the Force, including all aspects of accountability and responsibility of United Nations staff;

15. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus".